

NMRA BULLETIN

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2019 NMRA National Convention Dates and National Train Show Reservations:
2019—Salt Lake City, UT • July 7 –13, 2019 • http://www.nmra2019slc.org
Train Show Booth Reservations—Jenny Hendricks Registrar - P.O. Box 1328, Soddy Daisy, TN 37384-1328
423-892-2846 • ntsreg@nmra.org
• 2020—St. Louis, MO • 2021—Santa Clara, CA • 2022—Birmingham, England

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ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM

NMRA AP CERTIFICATE REPORT JULY 2018 GOLDEN SPIKE

Lone Star Region

Ezequiel Duran, San Luis Potosi, Mexico Kim Saign, McNeil, Texas

Mid-Central Region

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Greg Albert, Cincinnati, Ohio
Donald Docter, Cincinnati, Ohio
Peter Forbes, West Chester, Ohio
Dan Hadley, Cincinnati, Ohio
Paul Miklos, Loveland, Ohio
John Miller, Oxford, Ohio
Gary Ossenschmidt, West Chester, Ohio
Tom Patterson, Cincinnati, Ohio
Randy Seiler, Cincinnati, Ohio
Todd Smalley, Middletown, Ohio
Fred Soward, Louisville, Kentucky
Jim Stewart, Cincinnati, Ohio
Andre Stone, West Chester, Ohio
Peter Weiglin, Amelia, Ohio

Mid-Eastern Region

John Paganoni, Manassas, Virginia Joe Skorch, Kannapolis, North Carolina

North Central Region

Broom Qualman, Milford, Michigan Kenneth Scherer, Berkley, Michigan

Northeastern Region

John Barrington, Westwood, Massachusetts Randolph Childs, Centerville, Massachusetts

Pacific Southwest Region

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Rocky Mountain Region

Mike May, Durango, Colorado

MASTER BUILDER - CARS

Rocky Mountain Region

Dennis Krausman, Lone Tree, Colorado

Master Builder - Structures

Niagara Frontier Region

Don Pettitt, Brantford, Ontario, Canada

Pacific Southwest Region

Kevin Spady, Glendale, California

MASTER BUILDER - SCENERY

Mid-Central Region

Bruce DeMaeyer, Versailles, Kentucky

Northeastern Region

Jim Homoki, Hillsborough, New Jersey

Pacific Southwest Region

Kevin Spady, Glendale, California

Model Railroad Engineer - Civil

Mid-Central Region

Chris Broughton, Louisville, Kentucky Mark Norman, Louisville, Kentucky

Mid-Eastern Region

John Paganoni, Manassas, Virginia

Sunshine Region

Carl Smeigh, Wesley Chapel, Florida

Model Railroad Engineer Electrical

Mid-Eastern Region

John Paganoni, Manassas, Virginia

Northeastern Region

Thomas Emmett, Newport, Rhode Island Jim Homoki, Hillsborough, New Jersey

Pacific Southwest Region

Jack Debolt, Tucson, Arizona

Sunshine Region

Carl Smeigh, Wesley Chapel, Florida

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Association Volunteer

Rocky Mountain Region

Dennis Krausman, Lone Tree, Colorado

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Pacific Coast Region

Chip Meriam, Chico, California

Pacific Southwest Region

Kevin Spady, Glendale, California

Rocky Mountain Region

Dennis Krausman, Lone Tree, Colorado Dennis Snyder, Colorado Springs, Colorado

MASTER MODEL RAILROADER

MMR #615 John Paganoni, Manassas, Virginia

We need your help.

We'd love to have you send a head/shoulders picture with a two-liner about why you are a model railroader and what compels you to do this? And please provide your current or past work description if you would. We want to show that model railroaders come from all walks of life and diverse backgrounds. You can send those to me via email at the address in the magazine, viz. "president@nmra.org"

Secondly, we are in need of pre-war Varney kits, locos and rolling stock as well as vintage kits from the 1950's and 1960's. If you have any you are willing to donate, please contact Bob Brown at gazette@att.net

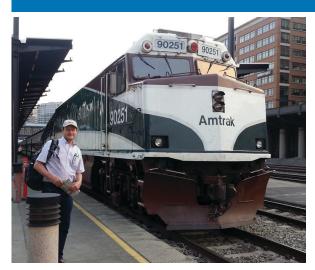
GALLERY EXHIBIT
CALIFORNIA STATE RAILROAD MUSEUM



October 2018 51



MMR EARNED



JEFF LEE EARNS MMR #614

ike many, my parents introduced me into the hobby with a Märklin train set on my seventh or eighth birthday. The layout graduated to a plywood sheet, and after showing interest, my dad built a train shed. Every birthday or Christmas added to the collection.

One thing that stuck with me all these years is the quality and reliability of that Märklin set. Yes, it was 3 rail; the curves were sharp, and the wheels and couplers oversized — but they worked. It was also easy to wire.

In my early teens, I started to follow local magazines and joined the local region of the NMRA. Many of the members modeled in Australian HO prototype. I soon followed, selling my Märklin and using the proceeds to buy new equipment. Wiring was more complex, and the X2F couplers were not as reliable as the Märklin.

I started to buy *Model Railroader* when I could afford it and was always fascinated by America's Hobby Center's four-pagesplus of advertising in every issue. I thought, "Boy, that must be a great hobby shop in New York. One day, I will get there." I saved and purchased a 40-foot boxcar from AHC. I built my first car when it arrived — not great, but a start. I loved the pictures of the Santa Fe, and I began my journey with American Santa Fe in HO in my late teens.

Despite an active hiking and sporting life and University, I still managed time for the hobby. In my 20s, I got married, moved into our house, and had kids. The trains suffered a little but were always there.

After several house moves and now in my mid-30s, I found myself working for an American-based (New York) company. Wow, I get a chance to go to the USA and New York. Maybe I could squeeze in a visit to AHC! On a wet New York winter's day, I arrived at Grand Central Station and got in a cab. I gave the driver the address – 146 West 22nd Street. He turned and asked if I was sure. I said "yes," and he asked why I wanted to go to the warehouse district. Then I shared my journey to get here, and we talked about Australia. He didn't like Rupert Murdoch because he made the *Post* a trashy newspaper with bikini girls on page 3 every day.

We arrived at 146 West 22nd, and he asked me again if I was sure. I gave him \$20 and said this was my first US cab ride and that I was not sure of tipping protocol. The fare was \$3.46. I told him to add a tip, please. He gave me *all* the change and told me to have a great day. Not all New York cabbies are bad!

I had arrived at AHC! I went in through the huge wooden door and up a timber staircase to a small counter at the top of the stairs. I saw some displays and salivated over what was there. The salesman curtly said "Whaata you want? Hurry up; we close for lunch in 10." I later learned he was rude to everyone. Using my best Australian accent, I pleaded to stay longer, and his offsider [Australian for an assistant or helper] interjected and agreed. An hour later, I headed out with bags of equipment and all my money spent.

A few years later, I was living in New York but didn't bring any trains with me. My NMRA membership, however, followed me to New York.

Within the first few weeks, my wife and I were at the White Plains train show, and she remarked on those "cute" little N-scale trains. Well, as soon as we had our house, I was off to the lumberyard to get enough timber to build my version of the "Clinchfield," which *Model Railroader* had recently featured. Three years later, my Clinchfield was air freighted home in one-inch-thick plywood containers and set up in Australia.

Several years later, I attended an NMRA convention in Madison Wisconsin, and met an "Aussie," who advised that the NMRA was very active in Sydney — my hometown. The previous 20 years while moving, I had maintained my NMRA membership but no affiliation with the local Region. Why hadn't the local Region contacted me?

On return, I attended a monthly meeting of the NMRA – AP Region in Sydney and was overwhelmed with the hospitality and friendship. What had I been missing for 30 years?

We moved several times around the Sydney area and built our houses each time with a train room as a priority. (I have a very tolerant wife.) Since the mid-1990s, I have been active with the Region and thanked all the members for their help and friendship.

My job was an international one, and so every June or July my boss would always know I had an important meeting in the USA. Hence, I have been able to attend most NMRA and N -scale conventions over the last 20 years.

The current layout (BNSF Down Under: www.jeffsrailroad.com) is in a 22x20-foot specially built room. Like all railroads, they are never finished, but it is mostly scenicked, and we run operating sessions. I am fascinated with LCC and its potential, as well as using Arduinos and the like for automation.

I retired from my full-time job in 2014, which enabled me to spend even more time with my layout. MMR was never something I aspired to because I thought it was beyond me. However, after being convinced by local NMRA members that some of my work would qualify if I documented it, a few APs came my way. The hardest AP was Motive Power, but I did learn a lot of things in the process.

The developments going on in automation via electronics in our industry is fascinating. At the recent NMRA convention in Kansas City, the most popular clinics are on the new technologies like Arduino, LCC, etc.

As well as model railroading, I am on the board of an international software company, chair of an energy advisory body of industry and academia, as well as active in the local surf club and a regular golfer.

Certificates Earned Jeff Lee

Master Builder-Scenery
Model Railroad EngineerElectrical
Model Railroad Engineer-Civil
Master Builder-Structures
Model Railroad Author
Chief Dispatcher
Master Builder-Motive Power

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